

will of the American people by changing course in Iraq and paving the way for responsible redeployment of our troops.

Although the President claims that he is interested in cooperation with Congress, his most recent veto threat shows that to him cooperation still means, "I'm the decider, you will do what I say." Well, the American people feel differently. The President is going to have to acknowledge that his course in Iraq is the wrong course, and that it is time to abandon this approach and work with Congress.

The bill we are considering today funds our troops, enhances our ability to go after al Qaeda and ensures benchmarks for the Iraqi Government that will ensure we are not on a road to nowhere in Iraq.

This bill sets the stage for responsible winding down of our military involvement in Iraq, and I urge my colleagues to support it and the President to sign it.

#### DEMOCRATS' PLAN DOESN'T CUT IT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the supplemental bill we are set to consider today only partially funds our troops. This leaves the possibility that Democratic leaders will again seek to undercut the efforts of General Petraeus before August. The plan is equivalent of an oil change when the car needs new tires.

President Bush pledged yesterday to veto the new Democrat funding bill. The President's veto supports our troops to complete the mission. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has made clear the impact on the military of partial funding. He has said, "In essence, the bill asks me to run the Department of Defense like a skiff, and I'm trying to drive the biggest supertanker in the world."

Following their failed attempt to micromanage our military leaders and hamstringing our troops in the battlefield, I am saddened that many Democrats are not facing up to the threats to our security. Al Qaeda spokesman Zawahiri has declared Iraq the central front in the global war on terrorism.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### IN SUPPORT OF UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL CHILD SURVIVAL ACT

(Ms. MCCOLLUM Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce a bipartisan piece of legislation that will keep newborn babies and young children alive and healthy in the world's poorest countries. I urge my colleagues to

cosponsor the United States Commitment to the Global Child Survival Act.

Every year, more than 10 million newborns and children under 5 die. That is 28,000 babies and toddlers dying every day. Pneumonia, diarrhea and malnutrition needlessly kill millions. Sixty percent of newborns and young children die needlessly from treatable or preventable problems just because they are poor.

This bill expands access to the basics, antibiotics, vaccines, vitamins, antimalaria drugs, which will save lives.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the United States Commitment to the Global Child Survival Act and to invest in keeping newborns and young children and their mothers healthy.

#### DON'T WITHDRAW FROM IRAQ

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday a petition signed by nearly 3,000 men and women currently serving in Iraq was accepted by the House of Representatives by Leader BOEHNER. The appeal simply states, "As an American currently serving my nation in uniform, I respectfully urge my political leaders in Congress to fully support our mission in Iraq and halt any calls for retreat. The war in Iraq is a necessary and just effort to bring freedom to the Middle East and protect America from further attacks."

This petition was organized by two U.S. servicemen serving in Iraq, Lieutenant Jason Nichols and Staff Sergeant David Thul. In a statement released yesterday, they said, "We are respectfully asking for full support in finishing the mission you assigned us here in Iraq. Patience and resolve will result in a stable democratic country in the Middle East. Early withdrawal will result in a stronger enemy, a weaker America and a demoralized united armed forces. We need your support to finish the job."

Mr. Speaker, these are the thoughts of men and women fighting this war. We owe it to them to listen. They've earned it.

#### 2008 BUDGET

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. As a Member of the Budget Committee, I am proud of the 2008 budget that we sent to conference committee this week. Our budget is a responsible one, and it is attentive to America's priorities.

First, our budget honors our commitment to our service men and women. It provides funding that will enable our veterans' health system to meet increasing needs.

Second, our budget recognizes the priorities of hard-working Americans.

It provides tax relief to middle-income families by fixing the AMT, extending lower tax rates, and continuing the earned income and child tax credits. And it expands SCHIP to provide health coverage to 7 million children of middle-income families who are currently uninsured.

Third, our budget enhances our Nation's economic competitiveness. It makes key investments to ensure our future workforce has the education and skills needed to compete in the global economy. Our budget is fiscally disciplined. It ends the unsustainable "borrow-and-spend" policies of the last 6 years. And it balances the budget in 5 years, setting us on a course to pay down our debt while meeting our obligations.

We should all be proud of this budget. It is a new direction; it is the right direction for America.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 100TH BACH CHOIR FESTIVAL

(Mr. DENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the distinguished Bach choir of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, our Nation's oldest choir dedicated to the performance and celebration of musical masterpieces composed by Johann Sebastian Bach. Founded in 1898 under the direction of J. Fred Wolle, the organist of the Bethlehem Moravian Church, the choir is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the annual Bach Festival this month.

In 1900, the Bach choir presented their first performance of "The Mass in B Minor" in the Moravian Church in Bethlehem during the Bach Festival. Although the next Bach Festival was not held again until 1912, the Festival has blossomed into a long-standing cultural tradition in Bethlehem, attracting visitors from all around the Nation and the world each year. During the festival, the choir will once again breathe life into Bach's Mass in B Minor.

Since its inception, the choir has been a shining star in the city of Bethlehem. Today, the choir is comprised of 95 volunteer members and performs under the leadership and direction of Greg Funfgeld. This unique ensemble has gained international acclaim for their artistry. The choir has been welcomed to perform on some of the most renowned stages in the world, including the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Munich's Royal Residence, as well as London's Royal Albert Hall as part of a concert tour in the United Kingdom.

Furthermore, countless listeners have tuned in across the globe to listen to the choir on National Public Radio and the BBC World Service. The discipline and talent that ushers this choir around the world is also shared with children and the young musicians in Lehigh Valley through music education programs.